[Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.]

(i) whether the Tahsildar has been duly authorised by the Government to do the same;

(ii) whether the Rules referred to have been amended accordingly; and

(iii) if he was wrong, who was responsible for such action?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No such collections have been reported. Lists have been received from the President of the Block Board and have been sent to the *Proverthikar* for future action on receipt of orders.

(*b*) The question does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

Conversion of the Pallikkal-Punnamedu Road into a cart road.

242. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the conversion of the village road from Pallikkal on the Kayankulam-Adur Road to Punnamedu, south of Mavelikara town, into a cart road was sanctioned by the Government some years ago?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the road has not yet been made fit for cart traffic and that the people of the localities concerned have been complaining to the authorities about the delay in carrying out the work?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to have the work finished soon through local agencies, if practicable?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The road has not been made fit for cart traffic. No complaints from the people of the localities have been reported to the Government.

(*c*) The work is not very urgent.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In view of the fact that part of the work has already been done by the people, will the Government be pleased to finish the rest of the work of that road?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If the people will find it possible to gravel the whole length of the road, the question as to what further Governnent would do in the matter will be considered.

Delay in answering Interpellations.

243. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state who is responsible for the delay in answering interpellations asked at the meetings of the Legislative Council?

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : Questions are answered immediately in the case of those in respect of which the necessary information is available in the Secretariat. In the case of the other interpellations, material for a reply is called for from Heads of Departments and other officers concerned. If a question involves the collection of much material or of information not readily obtainable, time must necessarily elapse before an answer can be prepared. The nature of the question is generally responsible for any delay; no less does the responsibility lie with the number of questions and the amount of work devolving on the Secretariat, Heads of Departments, District Officers, etc.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): With reference to the answer that material for a reply is called for from Heads of Departments, may I know the time-limit within which the Heads of Departments should supply the material?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : The time-limit also will vary with the nature of the question and the time required for getting the materials for the answer. Usually, Government ask for the answer to be supplied before the meeting is over. If they are received in time, the questions concerned will be answered. But, if they come in after the meeting is over, they will be supplied at the next meeting.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : It is stated that the nature of the question is generally responsible for any delay. Am I to understand that if no questions are put there will be no delay? (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : Certainly, it is so.

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